

## Register results

The following actions have been taken by a Federal agency. CONSUMER REGISTER summarized the packaging changes when the proposal was announced.

● On March 7, **Food & Drug Administration (FDA)** approved labeling & packaging changes for the synthetic hormone diethylstilbestrol (DES) when it is used as a "morning after" contraceptive. FDA received 21 comments on this proposal, including several from consumer organizations & private individuals. Some of the comments indicated DES is dangerous because of its cancer-causing potential to the fetus (if pregnancy does occur) & the patient & that DES should not be allowed on the market. Details—*Federal Register*: Feb. 5, page 5351; Sept. 26, 1973. CONSUMER REGISTER: Oct. 15, 1973.

● In separate action, FDA withdrew approval of dosages of the contraceptive containing 25 or more mg. of DES. Details—*Federal Register*: Feb. 5, page 5384.

## Toy safety

March 8 is deadline for comments on **Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC)** proposals to ban toys having sharp edges & points that would be used by children under 8 years of age. CPSC says sharp edges & points are 2 of the major hazards involved in serious toy-related injuries.

Proposed regulations would not affect functional edges & points on such children's items as scissors & knives.

Because children do not always use toys properly, CPSC proposes to utilize its new "use & abuse" test methods on any accessible edge or point.

CPSC has issued final regulations for use & abuse testing of toys in general. These tests do not automatically ban toys as a means for determining whether a ban is needed. Tests simulate a child's abuse of toys & other products & possible injury caused by abuse. Examples of "abuse" would be biting, stepping on, twisting, bending & pulling apart a toy.

CPSC has already banned categories of hazardous toys & children's products & has set minimum safety requirements for electrical toys & other electrical articles. Other toy categories will be covered later this year.

Details—*Federal Register*: Jan. 7, page 1480 & 1483. Send comments to Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

## Child-resistant packaging

March 17 is deadline for comments on **Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC)** intention to require special closures on all preparations (excluding injectable drugs) containing 500 milligrams (mg) or more of iron per package. Most common vitamin/mineral preparations would fall in this category; one popular vitamin dietary supplement, for example, contains 15 mg of iron per tablet, & there are 250 tablets in a bottle.

CPSC has collected information from poison control centers which shows that 543 children under 5 years of age were hospitalized during 1969-1973 because they accidentally ingested iron preparations. Acute iron poisoning corrodes the gastrointestinal tract & can result in death from shock or heart failure.

Because of the seriousness of this problem, CPSC proposes that these regulations be made effective 6 months after they are adopted & suggests that packagers of iron preparations begin immediately to obtain the necessary packaging.

Details—*Federal Register*: Jan. 16, page 2827. Send comments to Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

## Swimming pool slides (continued)

**Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)** has accepted an offer of the **National Swimming Pool Institute (NSPI)** to develop a proposed mandatory safety standard for swimming pool slides. Another organization, **Aqua Slide 'N'Dive**, will carry out swimming pool water slide test programs.

NSPI has until May 6 to present a recommended standard to CPSC. Consumers have an opportunity to participate in the development of the standard. NSPI would like to receive comments no later than March 15. Comments may be submitted to Larry Paulick, National Swimming Pool Institute, 2000 K St. NW, Washington, DC 20006. Telephone: 202-331-8844.

Details—*Federal Register*: Jan. 21, page 3331; Oct. 24, 1974, page 37804; June 28, 1974, page 24028. CONSUMER REGISTER: July 15, 1974.

## Child abuse

March 14 is deadline for comments on **Health, Education & Welfare Dept.'s (HEW)** proposals to implement the requirements in the **Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act (Public Law 93-247)**. Proposals apply to Aid to Families of Dependent Children (AFDC) as well as child welfare services programs (Titles IV-A & IV-B of the Social Security Act).

Child abuse & neglect means real or threatened harm to a child's (under 18 years of age) health or welfare by a person responsible for the child. (Examples: non-accidental physical or mental injury; sexual abuse; failure to provide adequate food, clothing or shelter. Failure of a parent or guardian—because of religious beliefs—to provide prescribed medical care would not be considered negligent treatment.)

Proposals would require states to:

- Receive & investigate reports on known & suspected cases of child abuse & neglect.
- Act when necessary to protect the child & other children in the home.
- Keep records confidential.
- Establish cooperation among law enforcement officers, courts & state agencies, which provide services.

President rules say that primary responsibility in cases of abuse & neglect is with parents. Proposed rules would include any person responsible for a child's health or welfare—such as a relative, foster home "parent" or even a teacher in a residential institution.

Details—*Federal Register*: Feb. 12, page 6505. Send comments to Social & Rehabilitation Service, Health, Education & Welfare Dept., Box 2382, Washington, DC 20013.

## Silver-plated holloware

Food & Drug Administration (FDA) is investigating the possibility of placing controls on silver-plated holloware, such as tankards, coffee sets, wine goblets & baby cups. [See baby cup recall, this issue of CONSUMER NEWS.] FDA has learned that some of these products contain dangerous amounts of lead that could seep into the food & beverages they contain.

FDA surveys have shown that some silver-plated bowls & caps contained "leachable" lead values ranging from no parts per million (ppm) to 316 ppm. (FDA has already set a maximum of 7 ppm for ceramic dishes.)

FDA is interested in getting consumer views on silver-plated holloware in such areas as:

- Whether silver-plated bowls & cups are used for hot or cold foods or beverages.
- Whether such holloware is used for foods high in acid content, such as tomatoes, salad dressings & mayonnaise, or high-acid beverages, such as wine.
- Whether silver plate has worn thin quickly.
- Whether there are cracks, worn edges or parting seams.
- Known cases of lead poisoning that might be traced to use of silver-plated holloware.

Details—*Federal Register*: Feb. 12. Send comments to Associate Director for Technology, HFF-400, Bureau of Foods, Food & Drug Administration, Washington, DC 20204.

## Food advertising (continued)

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has extended its deadline for comments on its proposed rule to set standards for nutrition claims in food advertising. New deadline will not be earlier than April 7—and may be later—depending on when FTC rewrites its trade regulation rules as required by the Magnuson-Moss Warranty-Federal Trade Commission Improvement Act (Public Law 93-637).

Details—*Federal Register*: Feb. 13, page 6688; Nov. 11, 1974, page 39842. CONSUMER REGISTER: Dec. 15, 1974. Send comments to Special Assistant Director for Rule-making, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580.

## Bullets

April 14 is deadline for comments on a petition re-submitted to Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) by the Committee for Hand Gun Control Inc. The committee asks CPSC to ban bullets for hand guns. Ammunition for police, licensed security guards, the military & licensed pistol clubs would be exempted.

The hand gun committee says bullets present unreasonable risk of injury & that the public would be protected only by banning them. Safety standards or bullets would be useless, according to the committee.

Details—*Federal Register*: Feb. 14, page 6818. Send

comments to Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Box 8137, Washington, DC 20024.

## Distilled spirits

April 9 is deadline for comments & requests to present testimony at a hearing on Treasury Dept.'s proposal to require ingredient labeling on distilled spirits—such as whiskey, gin, vodka, liqueurs & cocktails. Proposal is similar to the one for wine [below].

In the case of distilled spirits, grains could be listed optionally as "cereal grains" instead of "corn," "wheat" or "barley," for example. (This would enable producers to take advantage of price changes without changing labels.)

Treasury is particularly interested in receiving comments on the option to allow the term "cereal grains" to be used instead of specifying grains. In situations involving allergies, it might be more helpful for consumers to know exactly which grains were used.

Public hearing will be at 10 a.m. April 16 in the George S. Boutwell Auditorium, Internal Revenue Service Bldg., 1111 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC.

Details—*Federal Register*: Feb. 11, page 6354. Send comments & requests to present testimony to Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, Washington, DC 20026.

## Wine

April 22 is deadline for comments & requests to present testimony at a hearing on Treasury Dept.'s proposal to require ingredient labeling on domestic & imported wine.

Present labels require only brand name, manufacturer, alcoholic content & type of wine.

Because Treasury feels consumers want to know—and have a right to know—what goes into the alcoholic beverages they drink, it is proposing that ingredients be listed (in descending order of predominance) on all wine labels beginning in 1977. Minor ingredients, each of which makes up less than 0.25% of the weight of the original formulation of the product, would not have to be listed in that order. (Exemption would eliminate label changes—the costs of which would be passed on to the consumer.) Ingredients that would be listed include coloring materials, natural & artificial flavoring, sodium & distilled spirits.

Similar labeling requirements have been proposed for beer [CONSUMER REGISTER: Feb. 15; Oct. 1 & Sept. 1, 1974].

Public hearing will be at 10 a.m. April 29 in the George S. Boutwell Auditorium, Internal Revenue Service Bldg., 1111 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC.

Details—*Federal Register*: Feb. 11, page 6349. Send comments & requests to present testimony to Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, Washington, DC 20026.

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## For you

These forms are for you to use, if you wish, in commenting on any Federal agency proposal summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER. Of course, if you cannot get your comments on the front & back of a form, feel free to continue your comments on additional paper.

Send comment forms to addresses listed in the summaries.

CONSUMER NEWS is publishing these forms in cooperation with Food & Drug Administration (FDA).

## Rate register

● On Jan. 30, Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) announced that it was refusing to allow most of the nation's railroads to increase their freight rates by 7%. It suspended the proposed increase from Feb. 5 until at least Sept. 4. On Feb. 20, railroads petitioned ICC to reconsider the suspension & asked that the increase take effect immediately. Railroads cited higher costs. Since the original petition—filed in December—railroads say they have had a sharp drop-off in business & rising labor costs.

● On Feb. 6, Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) adopted new rules that would require buses, trucks & trains to tell shippers about freight rate changes at the same time ICC is informed. The rules, which will become effective May 7, will give shippers more time to anticipate changes or to file protests.

● On Feb. 7, Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) proposed new temporary mail rates for international air mail & military overseas mail. CAB says these rates would provide an estimated \$5.2 million in additional revenues to Pan American Airlines & \$1.6 million to Trans-World Airlines. In October, CAB granted Pan Am a \$5.4 million increase & TWA a \$2.6 million increase for air mail service because of fuel increases. These increases do not automatically change postal rates. Postal Service (PS) pays these increases to airlines for handling mail.

● On Feb. 11, Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) abandoned its minimum charter-rate guidelines, which would have raised fares for airline charter flights. CAB may later establish airline guidelines, but new rates will not take effect for the 1975 vacation season.

Clip this form, fill in blanks, write your comments & mail to agency noted in CONSUMER REGISTER item.

This is my opinion on (title of item in CONSUMER REGISTER) \_\_\_\_\_

by (name of agency) \_\_\_\_\_

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